

Petition of the Town of Framingham for a determination of the rates applicable to the transportation and treatment of sewage pursuant to an intermunicipal agreement with the Town of Ashland.

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HEARING OFFICER RULING ON ASHLAND'S MOTION FOR EXTENSION OF  
TIME TO RESPOND TO DEPARTMENT'S INFORMATION REQUESTS

On January 6, 2003, the Town of Ashland ("Ashland") moved for an extension of time, up to January 10, 2003, to respond to the Department's First Set of Information Requests, which are currently due by the close of business on January 6, 2003. As grounds for its motion, Ashland asserts that its lead counsel "has a herniated and/or ruptured disc and is under a doctor's care," and that he was therefore "unavailable to assist in the provision of the responses" (Motion at 1). The motion is unopposed.

Written motions for extensions of time made "before the expiration of the period originally prescribed of as previously extended" may be granted "for good cause shown." 220 C.M.R. § 1.02(5). I find that Ashland's counsel's medical condition is grounds for an extension. Therefore, Ashland's motion is GRANTED. The deadline for all parties to respond to the Department's First Set of Information Requests shall be extended to January 10, 2003, by 5 p.m.

Further, as a result of this extension and for administrative efficiency, I am revisiting the procedural schedule. All discovery may now be propounded at any time on a rolling basis up to April 25, 2003. The ten-day response period set forth in Ground Rules, at 1, shall remain in effect. No other procedural dates are affected by this ruling. A revised procedural schedule is attached.

Under the provisions of 220 C.M.R. § 1.06(6)(d)(3), any party may appeal this ruling

to the Commission by filing a written appeal with supporting documentation by January 13, 2003. Any appeal must include a copy of this ruling.

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Jesse S. Reyes, Hearing Officer

**PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE**

January 10, 2003	Responses to first round of discovery due Further discovery to be issued on a rolling basis
January 15, 2003	Site visit
February 3, 2003	Status report due
February 28, 2003	Deadline for offer of settlement
March 3, 2003	Pre-filed direct testimony and exhibits due
April 7, 2003	Notice of intent to file rebuttal testimony due
April 14, 2003	Rebuttal testimony due
April 25, 2003	Last day to issue discovery
May 13, 2003	Evidentiary hearings begin
Close of record + 2 weeks	Initial briefs due
Initial briefs + 1 week	Reply briefs due